CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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AUSTRIA, BANGLADESH, BELARUS, CAMEROON, CHILE, COLOMBIA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, FINLAND, IRAQ, ISRAEL, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, SENEGAL, SLOVAKIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, TURKEY, UKRAINE, VIET NAM AND ZIMBABWE

Statement on the issue of expansion of membership of the Conference

The urgent need to expand the membership of the Conference on Disarmament has been recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 49/77B. We therefore welcome the Conference's decision today to adopt the report of Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan, Special Coordinator for Expansion during the Conference's 1993 session, in which he recommended an expansion of the Conference's membership to include our countries. In doing so we wish to pay special tribute to you, Mr. President. Your skill and determination have brought about this result, and we are grateful to you for your efforts on our behalf.

We regret, nevertheless, that the Conference has been unable to reach a consensus which would result in the immediate acceptance of all our countries as full members, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/77B. This must continue to be the Conference's urgent goal. We therefore call on the Conference to make every effort to ensure that our countries gain full membership at the earliest possible date, and in any case no later than 1996. Until that time, we look forward to the fullest possible cooperation with members on all questions with which the Conference is tasked.

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